

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02 RSR-01 /207 W
----- 128701

R 051000 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1157
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
USUN NEW YORK 86

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 346

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MR, OAU

SUBJECT: LOS- OAU AND AFRICAN POSITIONS: MAURITANIA

REF: STATE 073822

SUMMARY. GIRM UNDECIDED ON POSITIONS IT WILL TAKE AT MAY OAU SUMMIT. RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMULATING LOS POLICY HERE REMAINS DIVIDED AMONG MINISTRIES FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PLAN- INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. BELIEVE NO GIRM OFFICIALS IN NOUAKCHOTT CURRENTLY INFORMED IN DETAIL ON LOS MATTERS.

1. I APPROACHED FONMIN MOUKNASS MAY 3 DRAWING ON REFTEL TO DISCUSS OAU HANDLING OF LOS MATTERS. FOUND HIM FULLY RECEPTIVE TO ARGUMENT THAT WFRICAN STATES AT UPCOMING OAU SESSION SHOULD NOT LOCK SELVES INTO RIGID POSITION AS GEOGRAPHIC BLOCK, ESPECIALLY NOT PRIOR OPENING OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA. FONMIN ACKNOWLEDGED DESIRABILITY WORKING OUT COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONALLY, AT SAME TIME MAKING CLEAR HE WOULD EXPECT
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SUCH COMPROMISE " TO FULLY PROTECT MAURITANIA' S INTERESTS."

2. FONMIN PROFESSED UNAWARENESS OF WHO IN GIRM CURRENTLY CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY DEVELOPING POSITION PAPER FOR

OAU TALKS. HE PROMISED INVESTIGATE AND CALL ME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

3. DIRCOOPERATION, MINFOYS A MONTH IN SAN SALVADOR AND CONTINUES TO RESIDE IN GUATEMALA. HIS CLAIM THAT HIS PRESENCE THERE IS REQUIRED BY THREE LAWSUITS (SEE REFTTEL A) IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY GOES, BECAUSE ONE OF THEM IS " NOT WORTH" PURSUING AND THE OTHER TWO WOULD ONLY BE VALID IF VENUED IN SALVADORAN COURTS.

E. IRCA HAS " MISMANAGED" ITS AFFAIRS IN THE MATTER OF REMITTANCES OVERSEAS AND THE GOES IS " CONCERNED" ABOUT NEW YORK'S LONG DELAY IN REPLYING TO A GOES QUESTION CONCERNING NON- PAYMENT TO GM OF SOME HALF MILLION DOLLARS AUTHORIZED BY THE CENTRAL BANK FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND WHICH NOW APPEARSNTO HAVE " VANISHED".

3. DR TRIGUEROS, IRCA' S LAWYER, AND GENERAL MANAGER LESLEY CALLED AT EMBASSY MAY 3 WITH AN APRIL 23 LETTER FROM NEW YORK ATTORNEY ABRAHAM K WEBER (COPY BEING AIR-POUCHED) IN WHICH LATTER INSTRUCTS TRIGUEROS TO " COMPLAIN VIGOROUSLY OF ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT ACTION WHICH IS TANTAMOUNT TO CONFISCATION AND EXPROPRIATION".

DR. TRIGUEROS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ECONOMIC MINISTER SANCHEZ AGUILLON, WHOM THEY SAW BRIEFLY MAY 2, WAS " TOTALLY NEGATIVE, REFUSED TO RESCIND INTERVENTOR SILVA'S STOP PAYMENT ORDER OF MARCH 19 (COPY BEING POUCHED), WAS VERY SARCASTIC ABOUT IRCA' S ATTITUDE TOWARDS MEETING ITS OBLIGATIONS, QUESTIONED NEW YORK' S ' ABSENTEE MANAGEMENT' AND ASKED HIS VISITORS TO RETURN MAY 18."

B. ALTHOUGH AN IRCA LETTER WILL BE DELIVERED TO SANCHEZ AGUILLON, PERHAPS A SIMULTANEOUS APPROACH BY AN IRCA ATTORNEY TO THE SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE. " WE CAN DO VERY LITTLE IN SAN SALVADOR," HE SAID. GENERAL MANAGER LESLEY COMMENTED THAT, CONTRARY TO WHAT THE GOES IS STILL SAYING, IRCA DID WELL IN JANUARY-- MARCH, WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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GROS RECEIPTS OF \$982,671 ((\$819,840 IN 1972)
AND EXPENSES OF ABOUT \$730,000.

4. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION ABOUT RESUMPTION OF PAYMENTS TO GM, BOTH DR TRIGUEROS AND LESLEY SAID THAT IRCA/ SAN SALVADOR DOES NOT CARRY THE GM TRANSACTION ON ITS BOOKS BECAUSE IT WAS A NEW YORK- DETROIT DECISION. ALTHOUGH DR TRIGUEROS HAS HAD SOME CONTACT WITH DR MANCIA, GM' S ATTORNEY, IRCA/ SAN SALVADOR APPEARS TO BE UNAWARE OF THE GM OFFER OS SALE OF THE LOCOMOTIVES TO THE

GOES AND THE COMING NEGOTIATIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE THAT NO- POSITIVE RESULTS WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY A STRONG LETTER OF PROTEST FROM IRCA TO THE GOES. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS UNLIKELY TO PREDNDICE THEIR CASE FURTHER. ALSO THE SUGGESTED WASHINGTON APPROACH TO GOES AMBASSADOR OFFERS NO PRACTICAL ADVANTAGE THAT WE CAN SEE. WE INTEND TO GIVE FOREGOING VIEWS TO TRIGUEROS THIS WEEK, SINCE HE SOLICITED THEM. HOWEVER, WE DO BELIEVE THAT IRCA- NEW YORK SHOULD RE- ESTABLISH EARLY CONTACT WITH GM TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF REPOSESSION ACTION AND WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT SO ADVISE MR WEBER. SEEMING FAILURE OF LOCAL IRCA MANAGEMENT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE GMC LOCOMOTIVES MAY BE CONVENIENT FOR THEM BUT IS PUZZLING TO US. IF LOCAL MANAGEMENT IS AWARE OF GM' S INTENTIONS, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT IT SAES THE GOES/ GM DEAL AS PART OF A PLANNED EXPROPRIATION.

5. WE HAVE NOTED CONTENTS OF REF B. AMBASSADOR WILL BE HAPPY TO VISIT WITH GM OFFICIALS. IRCA MANAGEMENT HAS INFORMED US THAT RAILROAD POSITIVELY CANNOT FUNCTION WITHOUT ALL REPEAT ALL 16 LOCOMOTIVES.
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